

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, the subject matter of claims 13 and 14 has been incorporated into independent claim 1, in disjunctive form. Applicants note with appreciation that claims 13 and 14 are indicated to recite allowable subject matter.

Dependent claim 2 is amended consistent with the amendment to claim 1.

Withdrawn claims 5 and 6 are amended to incorporate all the recitations of claim 1, as amended.

Withdrawn dependent claims 7 and 8 are amended merely to make clear that the recited porous insulating-film forming material “additionally” satisfies at least one of the two recited conditions (α) and (β).

Claims 9 and 10 are canceled in the present Amendment.

Entry of the Amendment “after final” is appropriate because Applicant is merely incorporating the subject matter of two dependent claims indicated to be allowable, into the corresponding independent claim, to place the case in condition for allowance. In addition, the withdrawn claims have been amended to incorporate all of the recitations of claim 1, as amended. Rejoinder and allowance of the withdrawn claims is respectfully requested, in accordance with the Office’s policy on rejoinder. See MPEP section 821.04(a).

Upon entry of the Amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 11-15 will be pending. As noted, rejoinder and allowance of the withdrawn claims (that is, claims 5-8 and 11-12) are respectfully requested. All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Nos. 5,412,053 and 5,589,562 to Lichtenhan *et al.* (collectively, "Lichtenhan").

As noted, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 13 and 14 in the disjunctive form. At page 5 of the Action, claims 13 and 14 are indicated to be drawn to allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4 based on Lichtenhan are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

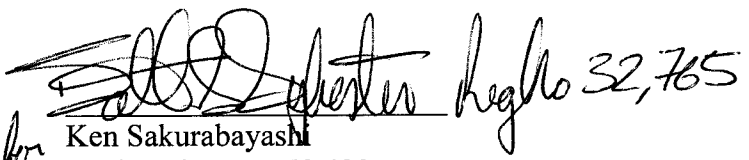
Respectfully submitted,

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